



U.S. Department of Justice

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Nov 18, 2008

EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: John Diekman

Clinton Township Man Sentenced on Tax Evasion Charges

John Diekman, 59, of Clinton Township, was sentenced today to one day imprisonment followed by six months home confinement and two years of supervised release, announced Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg. United States District Court Judge Marianne O. Battani also order Diekman to pay a \$9,000 fine, over \$7,000 for the cost of supervised release, and to cooperate with IRS. The sentence was imposed as a result of Diekman's guilty plea to willfully attempting to evade income taxes by filing a false Form W-4 with his employer, American Axle, claiming that he was exempt from income taxes.

Mr. Berg was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division.

On April 1, 2008, Diekman was indicted on four counts of tax evasion. According to court records, during 2001 through 2004 tax years, Diekman filed fraudulent Form W-4s with

his employer, falsely claiming that he was “Exempt” from income taxes. Employers use the IRS Form W-4 to determine the amount of tax withholdings that are needed to be deducted from an employee’s wages. During these years, after making substantial gross income, with a tax due and owing, Diekman failed to report his income to the Internal Revenue Service, as required by law. Diekman learned about this scheme by researching the Internet and purchasing a kit for the purpose of evading taxes. Diekman also promoted this tax scheme at American Axle with other employees.

Acting United States Attorney Berg stated, “Filing fraudulent tax returns is a serious federal crime. Our system depends on the voluntary and accurate filing of tax returns so that all tax payers will pay a fair share.”

"The majority of American taxpayers file timely, accurate tax returns," said Aouate. "Part of our mission is to assure those honest taxpayers that everyone pays their fair share."

Acting United States Attorney Berg thanked the IRS Criminal Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade.